publick, which may, without contradiction[5], suffer the report. It was much like an argument that fell out last night, where each of us fell in praise of our country mistresses : This gentleman at that time vouching, (and upon warrant of bloody affirmation,) his to be more fair, virtuous, wise, chaste, constant-qualified, and less attemptible, than any the rarest of our ladies in France.

IACH. That lady is not now living j or this gentleman's opinion, by this, worn out.

*POST** She holds her virtue still, and I my mind.

IACH. You must not so far prefer her 'fore ours of Italy.

POST. Being so far provoked as I was in France, I would abate her nothing; though I profess myself her adorer, not her friend °.

5 —which may, without contradiction,] Which, undoubtedly, may be publickly told. JOHNSON.

[6] —though I profess,, &c.] Though I have not the common obligations of a lover to his mistress, and regard her not with the fondness of a friend, but the reverence of an adorer. JOHNSON.

The sense seems to require a transposition of these words, and that we should read :

" Though I profess myself her friend, not her adorer." Meaning, thereby the praises he bestowed on her arose from his knowledge of her virtues, not from a superstitious reverence only. If Post hum us wished to be believed, as he surely did, the declaring that his praises proceeded from adoration, would lessen the credit of them, and counteract his purpose. In confirmation of this conjecture, we find that in the next page he acknowledges her to be his wife.—lachimo afterwards says in the same sense :

" You are ^.*friend,* and therein the wiser." Which would also serve to confirm my amendment, if it were the Tight reading; but I do not think it is. M. MASON.

I am not certain that the foregoing passages have been completely understood by either commentator, for want of acquaintance with the peculiar sense in which the word *friend* may have "been employed.

A *friend* in ancient colloquial language,, is occasionally synonymous to a *paramour* or *inamorato* of either sex, in both the. favourable and unfavourable sense of that word. " Save *yoiijriend*